

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 IO-13 OMB-01
TRSE-00 A-01 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /104 W
-----170949Z 110455 /15

P R 170855Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4321
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 262
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 2889

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION JUNE 10-16

REF: BEIRUT 2764 (DTG 101837Z JUN 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK HEAVY ARTILLERY SHELLING CONTINUED IN
THE SOUTH, AS PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE EXPRESSED INCREASING
CONCERN ABOUT ISRAELI INTENTIONS. FIGHTING BETWEEN SAIQA
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AND THE REJECTIONISTS NORTH OF TYRE SUBSIDED WITH THE LATTER
IN FIRM CONTROL OF THE CITY. A PFLP LEADER WAS REPORTEDLY
ASSASSINATED. AN EXPLOSION DESTROYED A CHRISTIAN BAKERY IN
WEST BEIRUT. THE BEIRUT PRESS REPORTED THAT SYRIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER KHADDAM CALLED AGAIN FOR POLITICAL REFORM IN LEBANON
BASED ON THE 1976 "CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT." RECENT SYRIAN
PROPOSALS FOR A BROAD NATIONAL FRONT ENGENDERED MUCH TALK BUT

LITTLE ELSE. WALID JUNBLATT MET WITH YASSIR ARAFAT. THE CABI-
EXTENDED THE DEADLINE FOR MILITARY RESIGNATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAVY SHELLING CONTINUES IN THE SOUTH.

HEAVY ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUED IN THE SOUTH LAST WEEK.
ACCORDING TO A VARIETY OF SOURCES, THE PLO AS WELL
AS LEBANESE OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS HAVE EXPRESSED
INCREASING CONCERN THAT ISRAELIS MAY CHOOSE TO EXPLOIT THE
SITUATION BY INTERVENING IN FORCE. THE DAILY AL AHRAH
REPORTED THAT "URGENT CONTACTS" BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND PLO
OFFICIALS WOULD BEGIN IN CAIRO ON JUNE 14 TO "DISCUSS THE
DETERIORATING SITUATION IN THE SOUTH."

3. FIGHTING SUBSIDES BETWEEN SIDON AND TYRE.

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, FIGHTING BETWEEN SAIQA AND
REJECTIONISTS ALONG THE COAST ROAD BETWEEN SIDON AND
TYRE HAS SUBSIDED, APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF MEDIATION BY
FATAH AND THE PDFLP. REJECTIONISTS REMAIN IN FIRM CONTROL
OF THE CITY, WHERE A DATT SOURCE REPORTS THERE ARE 400
IRAQI "VOLUNTEERS." ELSEWHERE, REJECTIONISTS CONTINUE
TO MAINTAIN A STRONG PRESENCE IN SIDON'S OLD CITY, THE
DATT SOURCE REPORTED.

4. PFLP LEADER REPORTEDLY ASSASSINATED.

THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)
ANNOUNCED THAT ONE OF ITS LEADERS, FAYIZ MANSUR, WAS ASSASSI-
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NATED IN BEIRUT ON JUNE 10, ACCORDING TO THE IRAQI NEWS
AGENCY (INA). THE PFLP SAID HE WAS MURDERED BY "A GROUP
BELONGING TO THE SYRIAN REGIME" AS HE TRIED TO PASS THROUGH
A CHECKPOINT NEAR CHATILA REFUGEE CAMP, INA SAID.

5. EXPLOSION IN WEST BEIRUT.

ON JUNE 10 AN EXPLOSION DESTROYED THE CHRISTIAN-OWNED
TOSCANA BAKERY ON HAMRA STREET IN PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM WEST
BEIRUT. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR ATTRIBUTED THE EXPLOSION TO A FAULTY
GAS TANK, BUT THE OWNER OF THE BAKERY TOLD AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE
THAT PALESTINIANS DESTROYED HIS STORE AS PART OF A CAMPAIGN
OF REVENGE AGAINST MARONITES WHO FLED WEST BEIRUT DURING THE
FIGHTING.

6. REPORTED REMARKS BY SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER.

BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
KHADDAM AS STATING IN DAMASCUS ON JUNE 14 THAT: (A) "THE

CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT IS THE CONSTRUCTIVE FOUNDATION FOR REBUILDING LEBANON POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY;" AND (B) "THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERPRETATION REACHED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS WITH THE ARAB QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE IS INEVITABLE." (THE CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT IS FEBRUARY 1976 SPEECH BY THEN PRESIDENT SULIEMAN FRANJIEH, WHICH CALLED FOR REFORM OF THE LEBANESE POLITICAL SYSTEM ON THE BASIS OF DIVIDING PARLIAMENTARY SEATS EQUALLY BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS, RATHER THAN BY A RATIO OF SIX TO FIVE IN FAVOR OF THE CHRISTIANS.)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 2889

7. BROAD NATIONAL FRONT.

RECENT SYRIAN PROPOSALS FOR A "BROAD NATIONAL FRONT" (BNF)
AS THE PRINCIPAL VEHICLE FOR A LEBANESE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

HAVE ENGENDERED MUCH DISCUSSION BUT LITTLE ELSE. ASSEM KANSO, SECRETARY OF THE BAATH PARTY IN LEBANON, TOLD THE WEEKLY AS-SAYED ON JUNE 8 THAT KAMAL SHATILA'S "NATIONAL FRONT" WOULD BE THE "CATALYST" FOR THE BNF. KANSO CLAIMED THAT WALID JUMBLATT'S PSP AND THE SYRIAN SOCIAL NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTY (PPS) HAD ALREADY AGREED TO ADHERE TO THE BNF'S "PLATFORM."

A JUNE 11 RALLY, HOWEVER, WHERE SHATILA WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AND REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR POLITICAL UNION WITH SYRIA WAS A FAILURE. EYEWITNESSES, ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE, REPORTED THAT MOST PERSONS ATTENDING THE RALLY WERE SYRIANS BROUGHT IN FOR THE OCCASION. INA REPORTED THAT WALID JUMBLATT, SAMIR SABBAGH OF THE MURABITUN AND IN'AM RA'D OF THE PPS HAVE ALL DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM THE BNF. MEANWHILE, YET ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN PHALANGE CHIEF PIERRE GEMAYEL AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALAM (THIS TIME ON JUNE 18) WAS HAILED YET AGAIN BY THE LEBANESE PRESS AS THE BEGINNING OF A NATIONAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE.

8. WALID JUMBLATT MEETS POLITICAL FIGURES.

POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) LEADER WALID JUMBLATT MET WITH ASSEM KANSO IN LEBANON ON JUNE 10, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS. KANSO STATED AFTERWARDS THAT THE MEETING WAS "POSITIVE" AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PLANS TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE PSP AND BAATH PARTY. WALID ALSO MET WITH PLO LEADER YASSIR ARAFAT JUNE 14, WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI JUNE 15, AND WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR JUNE 16 (SEPTEL)

9. DEADLINE ON MILITARY RESIGNATIONS EXTENDED.

THE CABINET DECIDED ON JUNE 13 TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FROM JUNE 16 TO DECEMBER 31 FOR ACCEPTING OR REJECTING RESIGNATIONS SUBMITTED BY ARMY OFFICERS. THE CABINET ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATIONS OF FORMER ARMY COMMANDER HANNA SAID AND ALL THE ARMY'S 17 BRIGADIER GENERALS, EXCEPT FOR ONE WHO IS A DOCTOR. OF THE 945 OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES, SOME 220 HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS. HIGH RANKING OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US THAT REASONS FOR EXTENDING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DEADLINE INCLUDED THE NEED TO KEEP TECHNICALLY

QUALIFIED OFFICERS, AS WELL AS POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS
PRESSURE APPLIED ON BEHALF OF SOME PEOPLE WHO
SUBMITTED RESIGNATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE
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Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0e13fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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